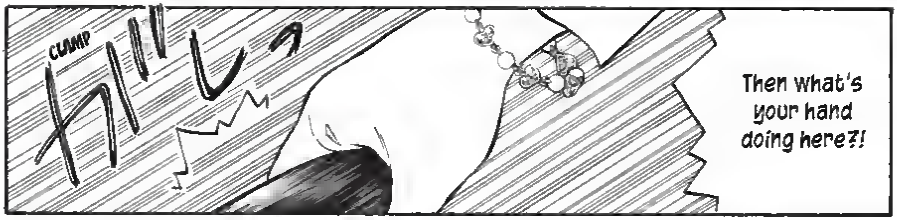
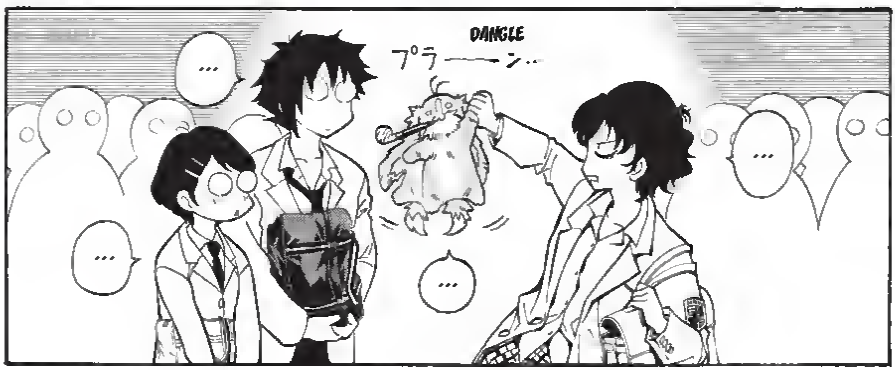
I hate cram school.
Whew. Another packed train.
I know, I hate it.
But I get to be out late with her
So it isn't all bad.
And there are a lot of gropers on this train...
MUZZLE
What?! That's a statement I cannot ignore.

Case 4: ⚜ An Equation for Murder, Part 1

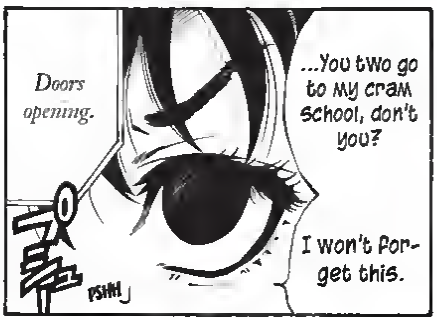
Eek!
Hey, you! You just groped me!!
Huh? I-I didn't do anything...


CLAMP
カレン
Then what's your hand doing here?!

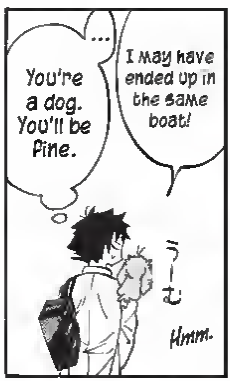

DANGLE
プラ――ン..
...
...
...
...

GIGGLE GIGGLE
Sorry, Sherdog.
HEH HEH HEH
H-hey, Takeru!
Sorry about my dog...
You accuse Me of molesting you? How rude! I am an English gentleman!
DANGLE DANGLE
...
TREMBLE TREMBLE

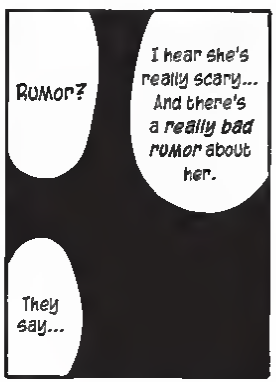
SOUTH ENTRANCE
You can always see her name at the top of the grade rankings.
That's Maika Sakuragi. She's a third-year at our school.
But...

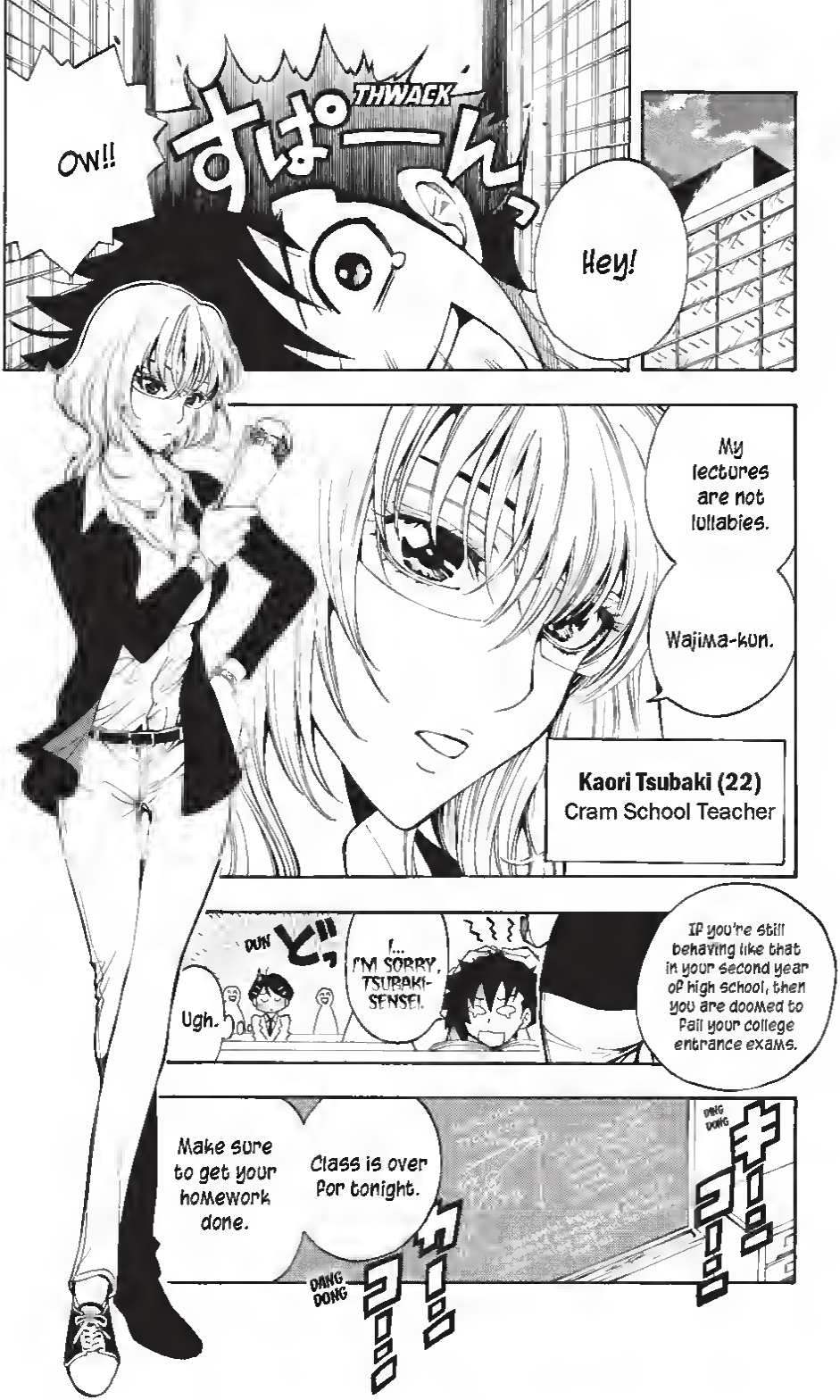

Doors opening.
...You two go to my cram school, don't you?
I won't forget this.
PSHH

...
...Are we in trouble?
GAH


...
You're a dog. You'll be fine.
I may have ended up in the same boat!
Hmm.

...Oho. That is troubling to hear.
What?! For real?! That is scary!!


Rumor?
I hear she's really scary... And there's a really bad rumor about her.
They say...

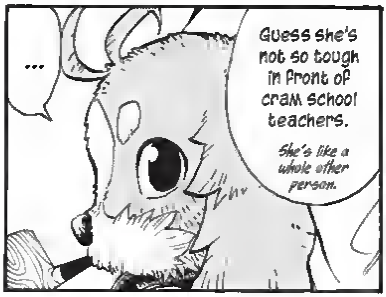

THWACK
すぱーん
OW!!
Hey!
My lectures are not lullabies.
Wajima-kun.
Kaori Tsubaki (22)
Cram School Teacher
If you're still behaving like that in your second year of high school, then you are doomed to fail your college entrance exams.
I... I'M SORRY, TSUBAKI-SENSEI.
DUN
ど,,
Ugh.
Class is over for tonight.
Make sure to get your homework done.
DANG DONG
キーン
コーン

I have no idea how I got that score.
N...no...
If your grades keep dropping like this, you'll have to apply to some less competitive schools!

It takes a lot of guts to sleep in Tsubaki-sensei's class!
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
Man, that hurt.
See you later!
Bye!

Sakuragi-san.

Y...yes, ma'am...
...This is more serious than I thought.
Come see me in the counseling room later. I'll wait for you there.

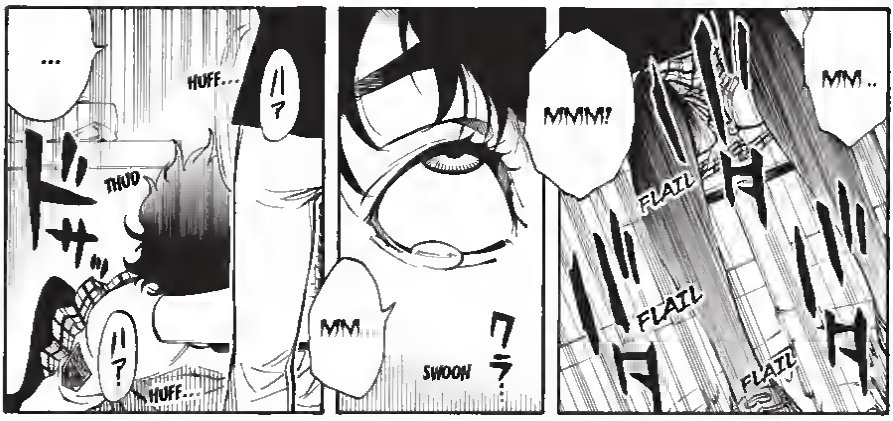

...
Guess she's not so tough in front of cram school teachers.
She's like a whole other person.

Yeah...
She's really getting chewed out. I thought Sakuragi-sempai always got some of the highest marks.

7:17
ID CARD
BEEP
BEEP
Huh?
We have *that* much homework?
PANIC
PANIC
あせ
あせ
No way!! I can't get that done in two days!
Ugh, you're hopeless, Takeru.
So let's do some of it before we leave.
In one of the study rooms!
Awww.
...
Okay?
FOR REAL?! AWESOME! ALONE-TIME WITH MIKI!
Counseling
KNOCK KNOCK
Excuse me. ...Tsubaki-sensei?

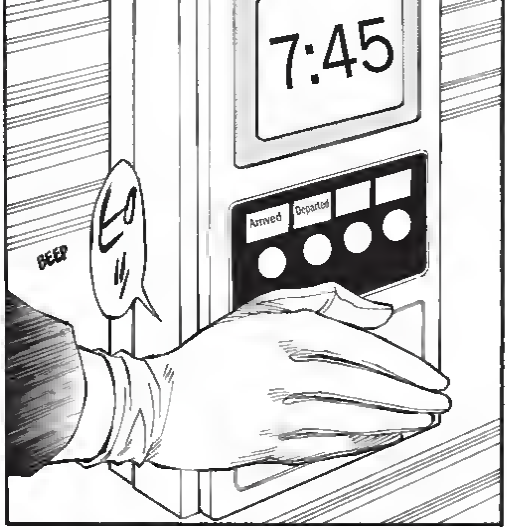
...Yes, I've been waiting for you, Sakuragi-san.
Have a seat.
GULP...
CREAK
How...how could my grades drop so fast?
...If this keeps up, I really will have to apply to some less competitive schools.
What happened? ...I was so sure I did well on that test.
So why...?
Well, you see...
...

I needed you
to die.

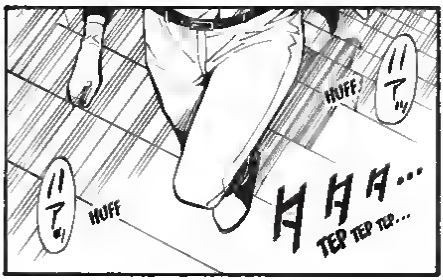

...
HUFF...
ハァ
THUD
ハァ?
HUFF...
MM...
SWOON
クラ?
MMM!
MM..
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL

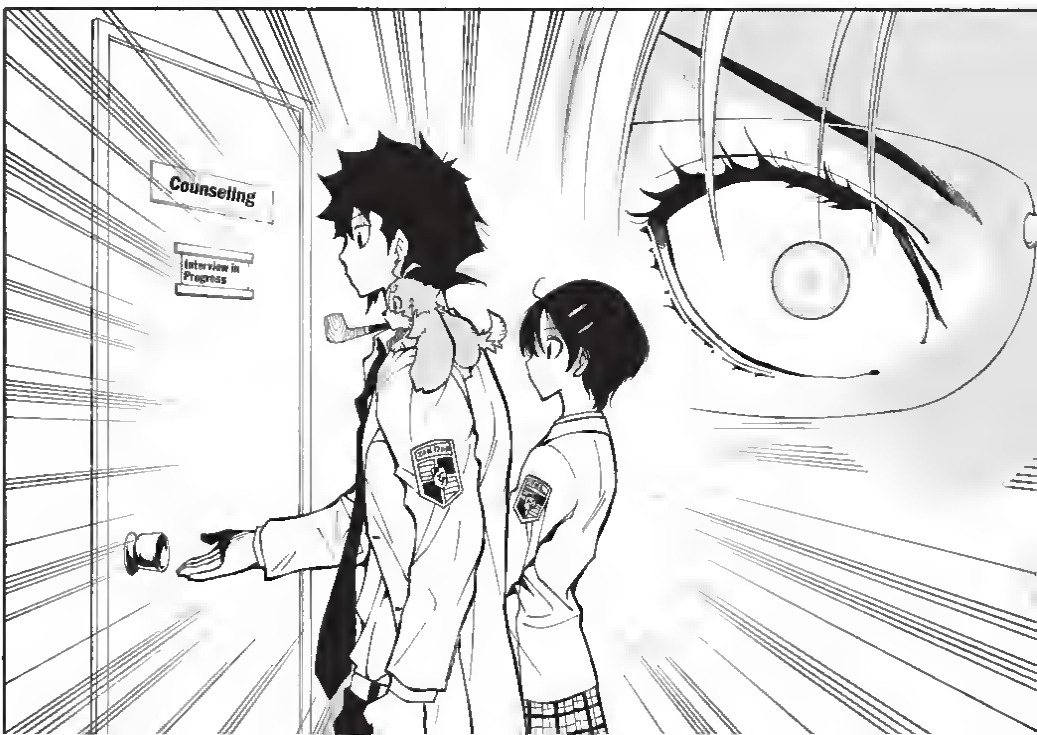
Counseling
HUFF
TS... //...
Intervi
Progre
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
RUMMAGE
ID CARD
HUFF
HUFF
TEP
TEP
Interview in Progress
TEP
WALLA
WALLA
WALLA
I don't want you stopping anywhere on the way!
Go straight home!

Keep up the good work, Tsubaki-sensei.
I'll be here a while longer. I have some work to finish up.
Thanks for your hard work.


7:45
Arrived
Departed
BEEP

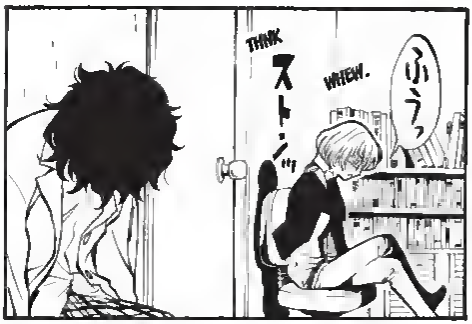
Coun-seling
But there's no answer.


HUFF
HUFF
HAA...
TEP TEP TEP...

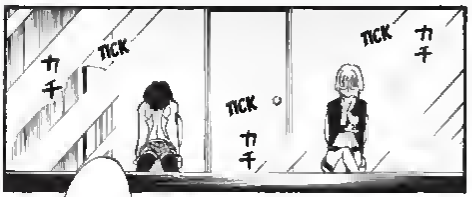

Counseling
Interview in Progress

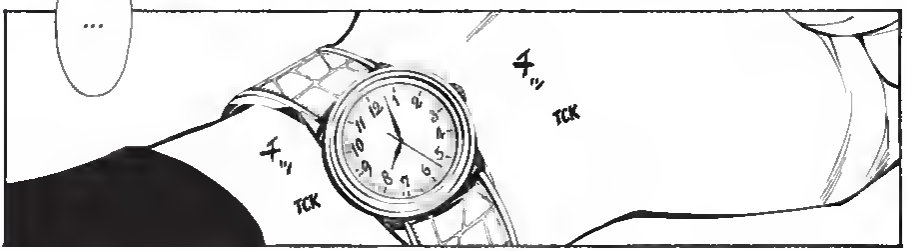
Sorry to bother you, Sensei. But I guess I didn't get one of the hand-outs for the homework...
Oh.
びくっ
WINCE
Then come with me to the faculty room!
...
You can't go in there when there's an interview going on!!
What are you two doing!?!
What...? Why?
Umm .. Could we use one of the study rooms for a little while?
Now go straight home—no detours.
Here.
Faculty
...
SHUT
...Right.
Then don't loiter around outside the room. Stay inside and study quietly.
Oh come on, you're always telling us, Sensei.
Once we get home, we'll start playing video games, so we should do as much as we can here at school.
I promise I'm not up to anything

!!!
SHH
That woman teacher appears
to be excessively irritable.
You think so? But she's always like that.

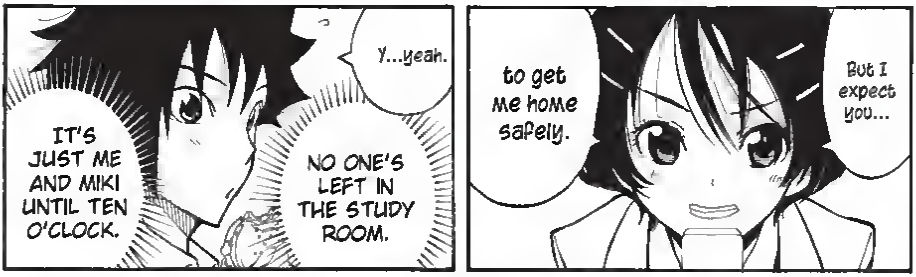

THNK
ストン!!
WHEW.
ふうっ

!!?
HUFF...
!!?
HUFF...
ズルズル
ZRRR
ズルズル
ZRRR


カチ
TICK
TICK
カチ
TICK
カチ


...
チッ
TCK
チッ
TCK

Now we should have until ten.
I texted my parents, too.
That should do it.
And... send.
PM 09:02
カチ
TICK
I'm gonna do some homework at cram school before I come home. Don't worry about feeding me. I had some fast food


Y...yeah.
IT'S JUST ME AND MIKI UNTIL TEN O'CLOCK.
NO ONE'S LEFT IN THE STUDY ROOM.
to get me home safely.
But I expect you...

ど
!
き
C-DMP
Ta...
What? Really?
No, not like that. For this problem, you need to...
I told you...

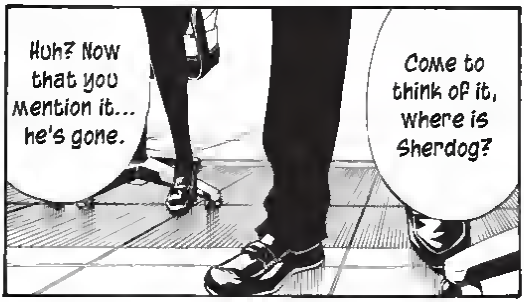
Takeru!

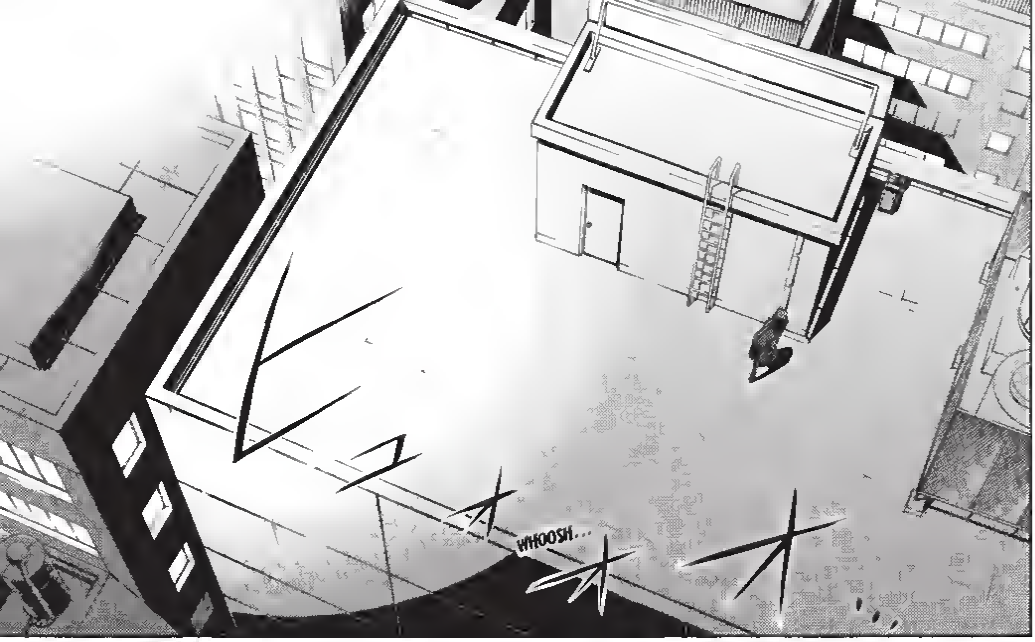
If Sherdog saw me now, I'd never live it down.
Have a tissue
Uh, yikes!
UGH!

Huh?
...

Ew...Takeru, you're drooling!!
And there's sauce in it!
PSHHH
SHAKE
SHAKE
DROOL
DROOL

When we get home, he's not gonna live it down.
...
Ha ha! I bet he tried to sneak off to answer the call of nature.
?
SMIRK
SMIRK


Huh? Now that you mention it... he's gone.
Come to think of it, where is Sherdog?

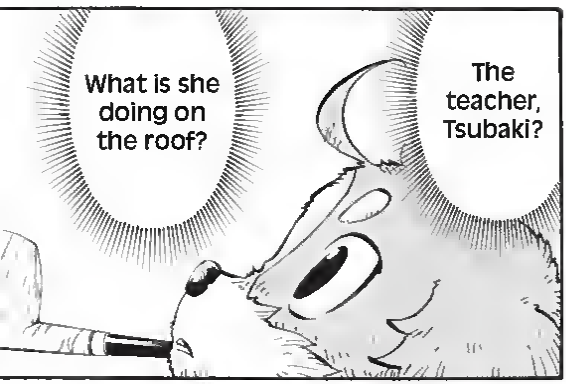

WHOOSH...

You were a very good student.
...But...

You know...
Sakuragi-san.

be born again.
You won't ever...

Here I am, acting like a dog again.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Ugh.
What was that sound?
It came from behind that alley.
THUD
Grr! An English gentleman... on the side of the road...
!!
!
CLANK
There it is again!
THUD
THUD
RUSTLE
What on earth is making those noises?


What is she doing on the roof?
The teacher, Tsubaki?

FLUTTER...

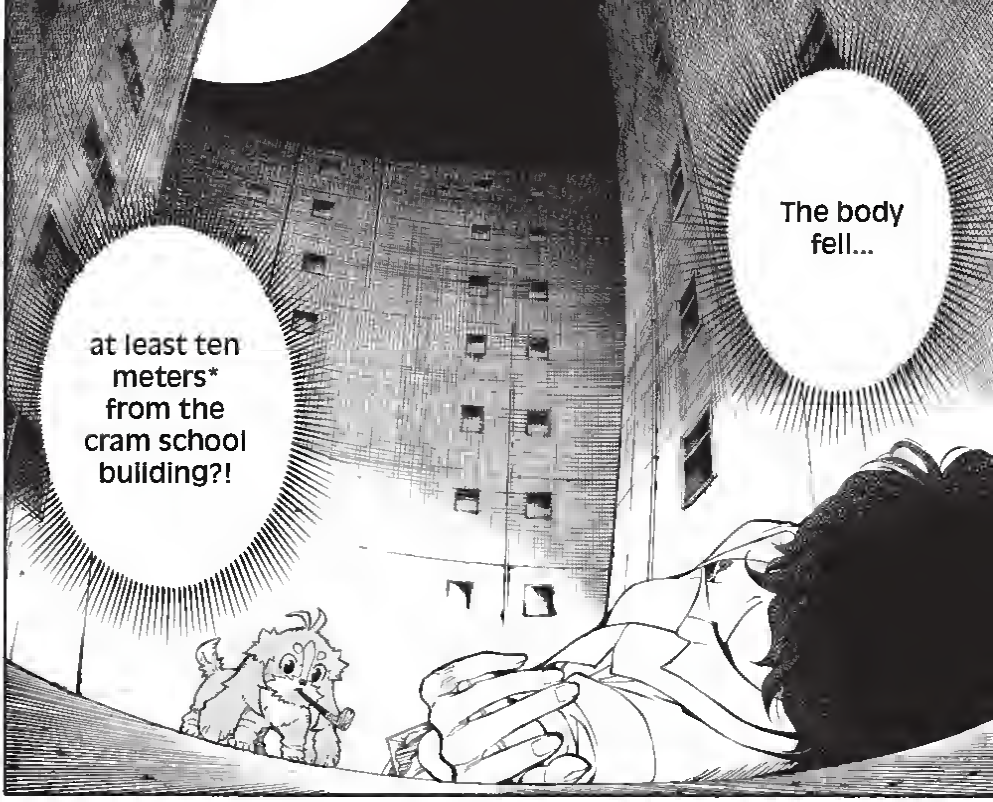
Is that...
WHOOSH

...
But...

push her off the roof?!
Did the teacher

!
BAH

The student who cried molester on the train!!
Wha–!
That's...



*About 30 feet